



INTERNATIONAL AID *for* KOREAN ANIMALS



WINTER 2022 NEWSLETTER

Dear IAKA Supporters,

I'd like to start as I always do, by thanking you for your continued generosity, support, and care especially during another year of change and uncertainty.

Despite all of the craziness going on in the world, 2022 has not been without good news. The Chosun Ibo Newspaper ran an article this year reporting that between 2017 and 2019 all of the major dog meat markets in South Korea, including Sungnam Market and Gupo Market, have shut down due to declining sales and land development projects around the market areas. The demand for dog meat is in sharp decline and with less demand for dog meat comes less supply. Dog farming and meat peddling is quickly becoming unsustainable as a business.

Once COVID is truly over it, we will be watching to see if there are any attempts to reopen any of the open-air trading markets and be able to gauge just how much of the industry is gone for good. While some secret farming and trading still exists, what we are witnessing is a mass change in the national attitude towards dogs and cats. According to a poll conducted last year, 84% of South Koreans don't consume dog meat at all. 60% of the population now supports banning it outright. 15 years ago this moment seemed almost impossible. Closing down dog farms was incredibly difficult but now, with the lack of demand and change in perception, it is easy to convince dog farmers to do something else as there is very little money to make anymore.

Because of the large number of dog farms being shut down we are also seeing an increase in dog adoptions. The downside is that many of the dogs coming from these farms are large dogs while in Korea people still prefer smaller dogs as pets. Many of the rescues work to adopt the larger dogs internationally as there is more demand and support for them as pets abroad. While I am delighted for the dogs that are rescued and adopted out, many more of them are not and either live in the shelters indefinitely or are euthanized. We would like to see an increase in local Korean adoptions of the larger dog breeds and also an attempt to decrease the breeding of larger dogs - which we hope to see as a side effect of the decrease in dog farms and meat markets.

We have updates on rescues we've been supporting this year. Two of them, Rebel Rescue and Hug Me Shelter, have been very successful in spite of COVID and harsh weather.

Thank you again for your dauntless support for the dogs and cats of Korea. I'd also like to extend IAKA's warmest holiday wishes to you and your loved ones.

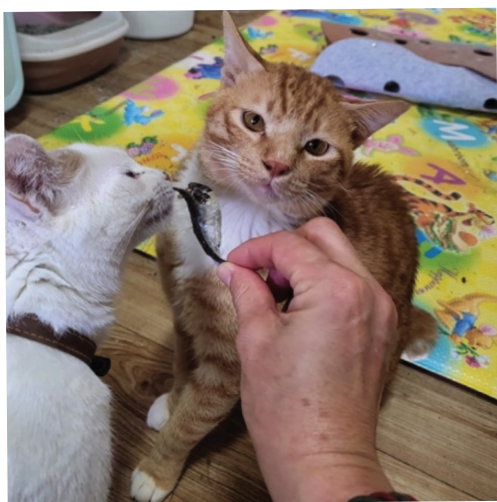
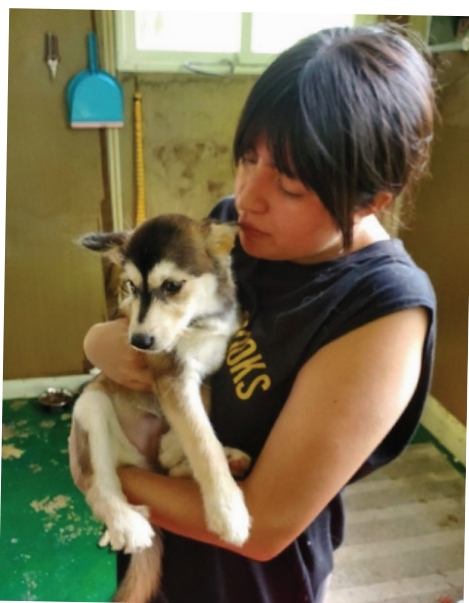
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The Rebel Rescue team stayed hard at work this year. The animals remain well cared for and attended to by a lot of lovely volunteers. Their most recent rescue was from a facility in Daejeon. Unfortunately, the facility was poorly run and animals there were living in filth - so it was shut down. About 80 animals were rescued from the facility and taken to different animal rescues throughout Korea. Rebel Rescue was able to take in 6 dogs and 1 cat to assist in that operation.

In total 78 dogs and cats were taken in by Rebel Rescue this year. 84 of their animals were adopted out to good homes. They performed 68 spay/neuter operations with the majority of IAKA's assistance going toward the spay/neuters and other medical treatments for the animals.



This year, Hug Me Shelter rescued 45 dogs from dog farms, animal hoarders, and the City Pound. They performed 29 spay/neuter operations and adopted out 48 dogs.

One of Hug Me's standout rescue stories is that of Penny. Penny was a feral dog found caught in a snare trap. She had a broken leg, was severely malnourished, and had heartworms. She had been brought to the City Pound and was awaiting euthanasia without medical treatment.

When Mr. Rha of Hug Me Shelter heard about Penny, he immediately took her from the Pound to the vet for medical treatment.

She is currently recovering well from surgery to fix her leg though it will take some time. She'll need some rehabilitation and a bit of training and then will be adopted out to a loving home.



Penny after her surgery



Penny after bath



Hug Me Shelter



Left: Mr. Rha Sunguen
Middle: a Hug Me Shelter volunteer
Right: Mr. Rha's wife Shizuka.
Front Right: Tanbo, the crowned dog, was adopted by a family in Berlin, Germany.

Three couples from Villach, Austria who each adopted a dog from Hug Me Shelter.

Simona (front, red shirt) visited Hug Me Shelter several times while living in Korea and introduced her friends back home to the organization's efforts.



Ten was adopted by Simona and Robert.
Mila was adopted by Katharina and Pierre.
Lily was adopted by Julia and her partner.

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